THE TRUE COPY OF A LETTER

From Mr. *Harris*, and Mr. *Annesley*,

TWO OF THE

East-India-Companies COUNCIL,

Left at *SURRAT* by their General Sir *John Child* Barronet, when he and the rest of the *English* Nation Departed the *Indian* Shoar, and Retired to *Bombay* to begin the late War against the *Great Mogul* and his Subjects.

Windsor, *July* 30th 1688

This may be Printed, MIDDLETON.

May it please Your Excellency, &c.

IN our last we advised Your Excellency, &c. of *Mudear Cawns* sending for *Kisso* and *Vittull Parrack*, who accordingly went from hence the 22*th* Instant, and the next day they met him in his way coming to *Bardoly*; upon his being acquainted who they were, he immediately stopt his Horse, and causing them to come near him

 after

after they had made their Obeyſance, they preſented him with Five Soonaes, and Nine Rupees, which having took he ſpoke mighty kindly to them, telling them he was come on purpoſe to make an end of our Buſineſs, and if it pleaſed God, he would ſpeedily do it to all their Contents; and after ſome ſuch-like Diſcourſe he proceeded: After him his *Begum* with all her Female Attendants (who it ſeems concerns her ſelf very much in her Husbands, and State Affairs,) being acquainted by her Eunuch that our Brokers were there, likewiſe made a ſtop, and calling them nearer; (after they had made their Preſent of Fourteen Rupees, and paid their Reſpects,) ſhe told them, ſhe had underſtood our Buſineſs, and ſhe would take care of it, bidding them ſend for the Ships, and ſo calling for ſome Beetle for them, the Eunuch told her it was a great way behind, but ſhe would not ſtir till they brought them ſome, which being given them, ſhe likewiſe proceeded on her way. When they were at *Baraoly* the Governour ſent for our Brokers again, and diſcourſed them a long time very kindly, giving them great proteſtations of his Friendſhip to your Excellency and our Nation, and having been pre-acquainted of our being here by *Mirza Moſum Gelleeree* (at whoſe Houſe your Excellency lay when at *Oorpaur*, where *Cartallabb Caun* gave your Excellency a Viſit;) He gave each of them a Veſt, and ordered them to return ſo ſoon as poſſible to *Surrat*, and bring us to him; and accordingly they travelled in the Night, and came to us Yeſterday Morning, and acquainted us with all the foregoing particulars, and of his kind Invitation of us to him. After due Conſideration we reſolved to Go, and judging it unadviſable to go before him without ſome handſome Preſent, and being unprovided of any thing of our own growth, we procured a pair of Pearl Drops, to the Value of Four Hundred Rupees, which we carryed with us, and putting our ſelves in the beſt Equipage we could, we ſet out about Noon, and arrived at the place where the Governour had pitched his Tents about Three a Clock, and had immediate Admittance to him, where we were extraordinary kindly Received; and having made our Preſent, he Entertained us with many Diſcourſes of Kindneſs, and that he would certainly Redreſs all our Grievances; and asked Us what he ſhould do to ſatisfie your Excellency, and bring you up to *Surrat*, We anſwered him, That when his Lordſhip came to *Surrat*, we would make bold to make our Deſires further known to him, and that your Excellency deſired nothing more ardently than a firm Amity and Friendſhip with His Majeſty and Lordſhip, with ſome other requiſite Compliments: But he preſſed yet further, to know what he could do then to ſatisfie your Excellency, *&c.* Whereupon we ſeeing a great many People in his Tent, ſtrove to wave coming to any particular Diſcourſe, but he being ſtill urgent on the ſame; We then cauſed our Broker to crave the favour of his Lordſhip of Privacy with him, which ſo ſoon as mentioned, he cauſed all to depart, only his *Duwan*, and this *Mirza Moſum Gelleeree*, (who it ſeems is much in his Favour, and hath very much his Ear,) and then expecting our Anſwer, we told him that your Excellency had repreſented your Grievances and Deſires to His Majeſty in Thirty Five Articles, (which he pretended he had not ſeen, and ſo demanded them) which being granted, your Excellency

cellency, &c. would be enabled to follow their Merchandizing, and live peaceably in his Country as formerly; he read them over distinctly, and then discoursed on them, and he said he must have your Excellency come up to *Swally*, and then there should be nothing you could desire but should be granted, and we must write and contrive some way that your Excellency may come up. We insisted upon some Effect on his Lordships side; whereupon he asked what he could do for our present satisfaction, we mentioned the delivering up of *Boucher*, &c. to be delivered up to us to be sent down to your Excellency, &c. which if he did, 'twould be a great inducement to your Excellency, &c. to believe the reality of the King's, and his Lordships Love towards us; whereupon We had long Discourse upon that Article, and we giving him a full Account of all relating to *Boucher*, and further representing to him of how great Import and Concern it was to the Right Honourable Company to have a full Complyance with that Article, and to be made true Masters of all their Servants, without which they could not trade with any security, but were liable to be cheated and abused daily; which his Lordship did acknowledge to be true, and that it was but reason it should be so: But for *Boucher's* Case, he said the King and he understood it different from what we now represented it to him, therefore before he could deliver him, he must write again to His Majesty, and take His further Orders about it; but his Lordship did assure us that he would write in that manner that His Majesty should not deny us That also: And for the rest of the Articles he swore, and made a great many Protestations, that they should be fully complyed with to your Excellencies, &c. full satisfaction; That he took them upon his Head, and so long as he had Life he would see them punctually performed, and then took *Bartholomew Harris's* Hand in his, and said, as he desired God's Blessing on him and his, so truly would he see a true performance of those Articles, which he took up in his other Hand; and for a further proof of my sincerity, (said he) I do here swear to the same by our Prophet *Mahomet* whom I Worship, and by Jesus Christ whom you adore, that I will perform what I here say. And indeed he spoke all with a great deal of freeness and sincerity, as much as possibly could be desired; insomuch that we must needs acknowledge, that we could not perceive the least Dissimulation in him, and in what he said; and further we cannot go, it being God alone who knows the Heart. After this he gave to *Bartholomew Harris* a very handsom Vest, a Horse with a Silver Head-stall; and to *Samuel Annesly* a Piece of *Atlas*, and so in the Evening sent us away, and about Nine of the Clock we returned to the Factory. And now having given your Excellency, &c. an Account of our meeting with the new Governour, we shall most humbly desire your Excellency, &c. to be pleased most seriously to consider all, how far the King hath condescended to the Redressing of all your Excellencies, &c. Grievances, by sending a Person nearly Related to Himself, being of the Royal Family, whose Father your Excellency, and we all know hath signalized himself in several great Governments and Imployes in our Memory, and always had the singular good Repute of a very Honourable and Worthy Lord, a lover of Strangers, which *Penit* knowing (as your Excellency may remember) was the

Cause

Cauſe he made his Addreſſes to him; and for this his Son your Excellency knows that the Profits of *Surrat* Government are too ſmall for the Maintenance and Retinue of ſo great a Perſon; as he himſelf was pleaſed to ſay, that all the World knew he wanted not Riches nor Honour from his Prince, but his undertaking this Buſineſs was to raiſe the Name of the Family higher, that by bringing this Work to an Happy Iſſue, he might be remembred by Strangers as well as others, many Years after his Death, and taking hold of his Beard (almoſt quite Grey) ſaid, how long have I to live? And what elſe have I to do but ſuch good Actions as this, that God might be Gracious to him hereafter. He ſeems to be mighty Religious, making God the Author of all; ſaying often, it is not he that ſhall do this Work for us, but God. Further be pleaſed to conſider the great weight of your Excellencies, *&c.* Thirty Five Articles, that without your Excellencies own Perſon in this Buſineſs it cannot be brought to that hopeful Iſſue as may be deſired, and at the Diſtance your Excellency and his Lordſhip is at preſent to enter into a Treaty between you: Your Excellency, *&c.* cannot but be ſenſible will be a vaſt Expence of Time, and a Thouſand other ill Conſequences may attend it far more than can be fore-ſeen in your Excellencies doing, (as your Excellency, *&c.* can order it) what is now deſired of your Excellencies coming up to *Swalley*, or the *Barr* foot of this River, where your Excellency, *&c.* ſhall think beſt for your ſecurity, (only that your Excellency may be near) touching which he was pleaſed to ſay, that in the Invitation he intends to ſend your Excellency, he will ſend you in his Letter the print of his Hand, which to him, ſhall be as Binding, and of as great Force as if he had put his own Hand into your Excellencies: That no ill is intended to your Excellency, and this his Promiſe in our Diſcourſe with him proceeded from this his Enquiring of your Excellency, and if your Excellency had not been acquainted of his coming to this Government, and if your Excellency had not wrote, and being anſwered that we were not wanting in our Advices, but there having been ſuch divers Reports, that it could not yet be expected that your Excellencies Anſwer ſhould come to our late Advices of his Lordſhips certain approach towards this Government, which was the Cauſe your Excellency had not made your Addreſſes, but were in dayly expectation of them; whereupon he adviſed that there ſhould in your Excellencies Name be made ſome little Addreſs of Welcome and the like, and ſend it him in publick on Tueſday next when he ſhould be in Town, and then we ſhould ſee what Anſwer he ſhould return, and what Aſſurances he would give your Excellency alſo of his Friendſhip, *&c.* as above-ſpecified; which Buſineſs of the Letter is now under our Conſideration, but we hope to receive ſome Directions from your Excellency, *&c.* e're that, for our better Government: So that your Excellency, *&c.* may expect to hear further from us e're long: If under all theſe fair Leaves, there doth yet lye ſome deadly Snake it would be much to our wonder, but we think it cannot be; More could be ſaid on this Point of your Excellencies coming up but not to be too prolix, and knowing to whom we Write, ſhall ſubmit all to your Excellencies, &c. far more ſublime Judgments, with this Aſſurance that what is here wrote is the pure product of our moſt real zeal

for

for the intereſt of our Right Honourable Maſters and the general welfare of us all. His Excellencies perſon is ſo dear to us (as in duty it ought) that did we in the leaſt think that there was any danger of him any more than what belongs to the Sea, we would never offer to preſume to ſet Pen to Paper to adviſe the ſame; and that we may not be miſ-underſtood we do ſay, that it is moſt requiſite prudence that your Excellency, &c. ſtand yet upon a moſt ſtrict guard, and if your Excellency ſhall judge fitting to come up, that it be with what Sea Forces poſſibly can be made, and with all requiſite ſplendor; And of our ſelves (foreſeeing one Objection) we have made ſome little inſpection in it, and ſhall anſwer it, which is this, That his Lordſhip ſeems too forward in this buſineſs in haſtning it ſo much: To which we are adviſed (as before intimated) this Government is too ſmall for him, and is in expectation of being *Suban* of *Goozurrat*, and ſo to leave his Son here when he hath done this buſineſs, and himſelf go to *Ahmedevad*, and this ſeems to us ſomewhat conſonant to Reaſon, and Honourable: One main point more had almoſt ſlip't our memory, which is this, about his Aſſurances his Lordſhip gave us from His Majeſty that we ſhould pay but two *per Cent.* Cuſtom, which aroſe from our telling him that you were ſending up ſome Money and Goods; upon which he anſwered as above, that we ſhould pay no more, and that if they did come he would ſecure them to the Right Honourable Companies Factory, but he had rather your Excellency, *&c.* ſhould forbear till his Excellency came up himſelf; We hope what we have hitherto done may meet with your Excellencies, *&c.* Approbation, and ſhall conclude this our Relation with this, That indeed it may be much admired with what extraordinary Courteſie and Freedom his Lordſhip entertained us, cauſing us to ſit down cloſe before him (which your Excellency, *&c.* knows is unuſual in ſuch great Men) moſt part of the time we were diſcourſing him, which we judged was upward of two hours, in which he ſhewed to be much pleaſed with us, and all his proteſtations and the like Teſtimonies of his Favour. We received with all due reſpects and ſubmiſſion, which being the ſubſtance of our Yeſterdays Tranſactions, and what we can at preſent call to mind, we in all Humility with the tender of our beſt ſervices, ſubſcribe

Your Excellencies, *&c.*

Moſt Humble and Moſt

Surrat, Dec. 25*th.* 1687. *Obedient Servants,*

Bart. Harris.

Samuel Anneſley.

SOme few dayes after Receit of the former Letter, the English General Received another Letter from the aforesaid two Persons of his Counsel, intimating that the said Prince or great Lord *Muctear Cam* was sending two Envoys unto him to *Bombay*; for whom the General sent a Noble Barge or Gally to bring them from the neareſt part of the Main to *Bombay*, and Received them with the greateſt Honour and Reſpect. They preſented the General from the ſaid Prince or Lord an exceeding courteous Letter, inviting him to *Swalley* to put an end to all differences, which Letter beſides the ſaid great Lord's *Chop* (or common Signature) had the Print of his hand in *Saffron*, which is the greateſt Aſſurance of Honour and Veracity that any Prince in the *Eaſt*, of the Mahometan perſwaſion can make or give. The General Received the Letter with the accuſtomary Ceremony to Letters Received from ſuch great Princes, but told the Envoys he was at preſent engaged in diſpatching another Ship for *England*, but he would conſider of the Peace propoſed and return a ſpeedy anſwer, &c. So that upon the whole matter the *Eaſt-India Company* do Conclude, there is an Honourable Concluſion made of that War, long ſince occaſioned by the unnatural and pernitious attempts of Interlopers, and that Peace may continue between the *Mogul* and the Company, upon fair and juſt Terms for as many Ages as it did before, which was neat a Hundred Years.

The Company have likewiſe Information by the Paſſengers come home on the *Succeſs*, That there have been two great Inſurrections of the common People at *Battee* near *Surrat*, and one in the City of *Surrat*, demanding the Old Governours Head, for abuſing the *Engliſh*; and a preſent Peace, without which they ſay they muſt all ſtarve.

THere will in a Short time be Publiſhed a Brief Hiſtory of the Riſe, Progreſs and Succeſs of the Engliſh *Eaſt-India* Companies Wars againſt the great *Mogul* and the King of *Syam* and Their Subjects.

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